

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7-10, 15-19, 24-35, 40, 43-48 and 59-62 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 15-18, 28, 33, 40 and 46-48 are amended, claims 2-6, 11-14, 20-23, 36-39, 41, 42 and 49-58 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein, and claims 59-62 are added.

The Office Action objects to claims 20-22, 27 and 57-58, asserting that drawings do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Claims 20-22 and 57-58 are canceled by this Amendment. With respect to claim 27, the microswitch 15, shown in Fig. 2, is an example of such a sensor. As such, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 15-18, 28 and 33 are amended merely to correct antecedent basis and/or dependency.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9, 11-17, 24-25, 28-31, 34-43, 45-48 and 52-55 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent no. 5,590,749 to Wagner et al. (Wagner). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate features of canceled claims 2-6, 11-12 and 36-39 and recites that a flexible circuit board element comprises a base portion and an elongate coiled strip formed from a single flexible circuit board substrate, and that the base portion has electrical circuitry mounted thereon, including connection circuitry for connecting with the electronic device. These features are shown in Fig. 5, for example.

The Office Action alleges that a spiral telephone connector 46 and an electrical connector 58 of Wagner correspond to the recited flexible circuit board element and base portion, respectively. As described at col. 8, lines 44-45, the electrical connector 58 is electrically connected to an inner end of a spiral telephone connector 46. Wagner does not teach or suggest that the electrical telephone connector 46 and an elongate coiled strip portion

of the spiral telephone connector 46 are formed from a single flexible circuit board substrate, as recited in claim 1.

Moreover, the Office Action alleges that an extension 23 and a base unit 28 are electronic components. However, as described at col. 7, lines 46-48, Wagner teaches that the extension 23 is preferably made of injection molded plastic. In addition, the base unit 28 is a part of a telephone 24, which is not a part of the retractable electrical cord device 10 of Wagner and is not certainly mounted on the electrical connector 58. Therefore, Wagner does not teach or suggest that the electrical connector 58 has electrical circuit mounted thereon, as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, claim 1 recites that the base portion extends transversely to the axis of rotation of the reel. This feature is shown in Fig. 3, for example. As shown in Fig. 3 of Wagner, the electrical connector 58 of Wagner extends in parallel with the axis for rotation of the reel 30.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentably distinct from Wagner.

Claims 7-9, 16, 17, 24, 25, 28-31, 34, 35, 43 and 45 are allowable at least for their dependence on allowable claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Claims 40, 46 and 47 recite features similar to those of claim 1. As such, as discussed above in connection with claim 1, Wagner does not teach or suggest these features. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 40, 46 and 47 are patentably distinct from Wagner.

Claim 48 recites that a coiled portion and a land portion have one or more electrical tracks extending thereacross. Wagner does not teach or suggest that the electrical connector 58 has one or more electrical tracks extending thereacross, as recited in claim 48. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 48 is patentably distinct from the applied art.

Claims 52-55 are canceled by this Amendment. As such, the rejection of these claims is moot.

At least for these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 10, 17-23, 26, 27, 32, 33, 37, 43, 44 and 56-58 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over WO 00/31847 to Burke. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a flexible circuit board element comprising a base portion and an elongate coiled strip formed from a single flexible circuit board substrate. Canceled claim 2, which features are now incorporated into claim 1, recited a flexible circuit board, and claim 2 is not rejected under this rejection. As such, claim 1 is patentably distinct from Burke.

Claims 10, 17-23, 26, 27, 32, 33, 43 and 44 are allowable at least for their dependence on allowable claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Claims 37 and 56-58 are canceled by this Amendment. As such, the rejection of claims 37 and 56-58 is moot.

At least for these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claim 48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,390,261 to Liao. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 48 recites that a cable management assembly includes a retractable cable and a unitary flexible circuit board element and that the flexible circuit board element has a coiled portion and a land portion.

The Office Action alleges that a communication wire 13 and a circuit board 51 correspond to the retractable cable and a flexible circuit board. The Office Action appears to refer to the communication wire 13 as a coiled portion of the flexible circuit board element. However, Liao does not teach or suggest that the communication wire 13 and the circuit board 51 are unitary to form the unitary flexible circuit board element, as clearly shown in Fig. 1 of Liao. As such, claim 48 is patentably distinct from Liao.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 59-62 are added by this Amendment. Claim 59 recites that a microswitch is mounted on the base portion for detecting retraction of the cable. This feature is described in the specification at, for example, page 10, lines 29-30. Claim 59 is allowable at least for its dependence on allowable claim 1, as well as for the additional features it recites.

Claim 60 recites that the base portion extends in the plane of the reel outwardly past the periphery of the reel to form a surface for mounting componentry, and that a microswitch is mounted on the surface adjacent the cable to determine whether the cable is in a retracted or extended condition. These features are shown in Fig. 2 and described in the specification at page 10, lines 29-30, for example. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 60 is patentably distinct from the applied art because none of the applied art teaches or suggests these features.

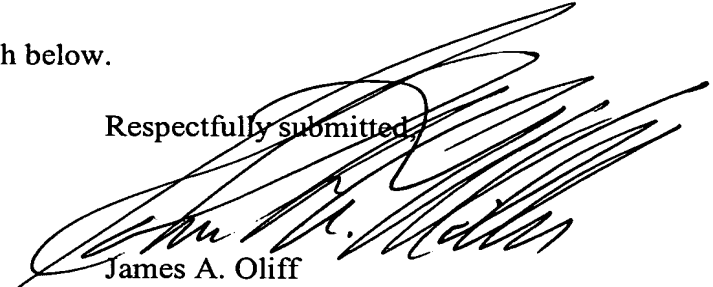
Method claim 61 recites forming the base portion and elongate coil portion from a single substrate. As discussed above, none of the prior art teaches or suggests this feature. Accordingly, claim 61 is patentably distinct from the applied art. Further, claim 61 has the same technical feature as the apparatus claims.

Claim 62 recites cutting base portion and spiral coil portion from a flat substrate and bending a neck portion out of the plane of the base portion and winding the spiral strip into a coil. These features are described in the specification at, for example, page 12, line 20-page 13, line 2. Claim 61 is allowable at least for its dependence on allowable base claim, as well as for the additional features it recites.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 7-10, 15-19, 24-35, 40, 43-48 and 59-62 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Robert A. Miller
Registration No. 32,771

JAO:KXH/tls

Date: October 6, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
